

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03353 170146Z

64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 160827Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 202

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV MY

SUBJ: NATIONAL FRONT WINS SELANGOR BY-ELECTION

REF: A) KL 2639 B) KL A-21, 2/14/75

1. NATIONAL FRONT'S ROSEMARY CHONG, REPRESENTING MALAYSIAN CHINESE ASSOCIATION (MCA), SCORED OVERWHELMING VICTORY JUNE 14 IN PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION IN CONSTITUENCY ADJACENT TO KUALA LUMPUR. BY-ELECTION WAS NECESSARY DUE TO DEATH OF POPULAR MCA MP WALTER LOH IN MID-APRIL. ROSEMARY CHONG, PRESIDENT OF MCA WOMEN'S WING, WILL BE FIRST CHINESE WOMAN TO SIT IN LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

2. ROSEMARY BETTERED WALTER LOH'S RECORD IN AUGUST 1974 GENERAL ELECTIONS BY GARNERING 19,338 VOTES AGAINST DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (DAP) CANDIDATE'S 7,434; AN INDEPENDENT MUSTERED ONLY 481 VOTES. DAP NOMINEE, IDRUS BIN IDRIS, WAS LACKLUSTER PERFORMER AND RECEIVED LITTLE HELP DURING CAMPAIGN FROM HIS OWN PARTY; SO-CALLED "OPPOSITION UNITED FRONT" (REF A) MEMBERS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY (PEKEMAS) AND MALAYAN PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST PARTY (PARTI RAKYAT) DID NOT BOTHER TO WORK FOR IDRUS, THUS DEMONSTRATING THEIR LACK OF COMMITMENT. CONSTITUENCY, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL TRADITIONALLY

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PAGE 02 KUALA 03353 170146Z

OPPOSITIONIST NEW VILLAGES, WAS CANVASSED HEAVILY BY

NATIONAL FRONT LEADERS, INCLUDING TOP MCA MEN, GERAKAN LUMINARIES, AND SELANGOR CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARUN IDRIS. VOTERS EVIDENTLY WERE NOT INHIBITED IN VOTING FOR A WOMAN, FACTOR THAT WILL DOUBTLESS ENCOURAGE OTHER DISTAFF POLITICIANS.

3. COMING A WEEK BEFORE UMNO ANNUAL CONGRESS JUNE 20-22 (SEPTTEL), MCA'S WIN IN THIS BY-ELECTION IS REAFFIRMATION OF VOTE-GETTING ABILITIES OF NON-MALAY PARTNERS IN NATIONAL FRONT. THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL TEND TO FORESTAFF CRITICISM OF NATIONAL FRONT ARRANGEMENT BY UMNO CONGRESS DELEGATES, AS WELL AS MUTE THOSE FEW EXTREMISTS WHO MIGHT CALL FOR FORMATION OF ALL-MALAY GOVERNMENT.
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